

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03

INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 OIC-02 /062 W

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P R 021409Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6569

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: (A) STATE 259740; (B) USNATO 6678

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY BONN FEELS THAT REFTELS MAY SOMEWHAT OVERSTATE THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT WITHIN THE FMOD (FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) FOR THE LONG-RANGE CONCEPT FOR NATO DEFENSE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE FMOD IS FIRMLY BEHIND THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FMOD DOES NOT REALLY BELIEVE THAT A CONVENTIONAL BALANCE IS ACHIEVABLE. AS GOOD ALLIES, FMOD POLICY PLANNING SPECIALISTS WANT TO WORK WITH U.S. AND OTHER NATO COLLEAGUES TO ACHIEVE AGREED TEXTUAL CHANGES TO THE U.S. DRAFT. YET OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE FMOD OFFICERS WILL DO SO WITHOUT ANY REAL ENTHUSIASM FOR ACHIEVING "A MORE VIGOROUS AND POSITIVE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE." END SUMMARY

1. FMOD POLICY PLANNING SPECIALISTS TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT WAS CORRECT TO SPEAK OF "BROAD GENERAL SUPPORT" FOR THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-RANGE CONCEPT FOR NATO DEFENSE. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO QUALIFY THIS SO MUCH AS
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TO MAKE "SUPPORT" SOUND MORE LIKE "ACQUIESCENCE." IN

THE FIRST PLACE THEY STATED THAT THE CONCEPT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL MORE WORK. THE U.S. PAPER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY; NATO SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH IT HASTILY. SECONDLY, THEY SUGGESTED THAT PARAS 1-11 BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE WHILE THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF THE U.S. DRAFT SHOULD BE TREATED (AT LEAST INITIALLY) OTHERWISE THAN BY THE DEFENSE MINISTERS.

2. THE FMOD OFFICERS WERE EXTREMELY EMPHATIC THAT THE FRG ACCEPTED THE NEED TO IMPROVE NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES. JUST BECAUSE THE FRG WANTS TO O "MESSAGE" CERTAIN PHRASES, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE FRG IS AGAINST IMPROVING CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES: WHAT THE FRG WANTS TO DO IS TO ACHIEVE WORDING ACCEPTABLE TO THE WHOLE ALLIANCE.

3. WHILE THE FRG IS IN FAVOR OF IMPROVING CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES, THE FMOD OFFICERS OBSERVED THAT IT WAS LEERY OF ANY POSSIBLE UNDERESTIMATION OF THE WARSAW PACT. THE FRG IS READY TO JOIN WITH ITS ALLIES TO FIND A REALISTIC EVALUATION OF THE ENEMY'S CAPABILITIES.

4. RETURNING TO A FAVORITE THEME, THE FMOD OFFICERS EMPHASIZED THE FRG'S BELIEF THAT NATO MUST RETAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF A NUCLEAR RESPONSE. OUR INTENTIONS SHOULD REMAIN INCALCULABLE TO THE AGGRESSOR; RESORT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD OCCUR, "AS EARLY AS NECESSARY, BUT AS LATE AS POSSIBLE."

5. THE FMOD OFFICERS STATED THAT THE FRG WAS AGAINST "ANY CALCULATED INSUFFICIENCY IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVOKING THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

6. REFERRING TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER'S "CLEAR STATEMENT" IN SUPPORT OF THE TRIAD DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN, THE FMOD OFFICERS STATED THAT THIS HAD STRONG FRG SUPPORT. THEY LATER NOTED THAT, BECAUSE THE LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT HAD "NO ADVERSE" IMPLICATIONS INsofar AS THE TRIAD WAS CONCERNED, T COULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE FRG. THEIR HARPING ON THE MAINTENANCE

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OF THE TRIAD SEEMS TO REFLECT FRG FEARS RE-DECOUPLING.

7. INsofar AS A THREE PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR NATO ARMS BUDGETS IS CONCERNED, THE FMOD OFFICERS STATED THAT NO EUROPEAN NATION WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE SUCH A GOAL IN THE FACE OF TODAY'S GALLOPING

INFLATION. THEY ALSO DOUBTED THAT THE U.S. COULD DO SO.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6570

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18579

FOR THIS REASON, THE FRG PREFERRED TO TALK ABOUT
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN TERMS OF SHARE OF GNP, DOLLARS
PER CAPITA, OR IN SOME OTHER MANNER THAN A PERCENTAGE
INCREASE IN REAL TERMS.

8. THE FMOD OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE FRG STRONGY
SUPPORTS EFFORTS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. THEY SAID THAT
THE FRG HAD LITTLE FEAR THAT GREATER RATIONALIZATION
WOULD DECREASE THE COMBAT PORTION OF THE BUNDESWEHR. IN
FACT, IT FELT THAT THE SMALLER NATO ALLIES WOULD BE
HAPPY TO SEE AN INCREASE IN THE COMBAT PORTION OF THE
BUNDESWEHR SO THEY THEMSELVES COULD SUPPLY SUPPORT AND
LOGISTIC FORCES RATHER THAN COMBAT UNITS.

9. HAVING CAST CONSIDERABLE COLD WATER ON THE U.S.
PROPOSAL, THE OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO SHOW THAT THE FRG
WAS IN FACT IN FAVOR OF THE CONCEPT. THEY SAID THIS WAS
EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEBER
WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO GAIN SUPPORT WITHIN THE EUROGROUP

FOR IMPROVING CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES. EMBOFF
POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. LONG-RANGE CONCEPT FOR NATO
DEFENSE WAS MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY A PLEA FOR INCREASING
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CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES. THEY AGREED AND STATED ONCE
AGAIN THAT THE FRG SUPPORTED THE U.S. INITIATIVE.
EVERYTHING THEY HAD SAID BEFORE, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT
THIS SUPPORT WAS ANYTHING BUT ENTHUSIASTIC.

10. THE FMOD POLICY PLANNING OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEIR
VIEWS REPRESENTED THE OFFICIAL FRG POSITION AS APPROVED
BY MINISTER LEBER.
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